

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

I am writing on behalf of Special Olympics, our donors and, most importantly, the 4,931,754 athletes with intellectual disabilities and 1,156,397 volunteers who tirelessly support our movement. We rely on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve our 4,931,754 Special Olympics athletes.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to provide year-round sports training, athletic competition and healthcare to children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the US and around the world. Respectfully, we ask you to consider this consequence.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Very Truly Yours,

Stefanie Sempek  
Direct Responses Marketing Manager  
Special Olympics